

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON POLITICAL TRIALS

REF: (A) SEOUL 9348, (B) SEOUL 9505, (C) SEOUL 9583, (D) SEOUL 9728
(E) SEOUL 9875

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF POLITICAL TRIALS RECENTLY CONCLUDED:

YI PU-YONG AND YI SIM-POM

ACCUSED OF VIOLATING EM-9 BECAUSE THEY HAD COPIES OF UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF USA RESOLUTION ON KOREA IN THEIR POSSESSION, FORMER TONGA ILBO REPORTER YI PU-YONG WAS SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON PLUS, ONE YEAR LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS ON DECEMBER 26 WHILE YI SIM-POM RECEIVED 8 MONTHS JAIL SENTENCE PLUS 8 MONTHS LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS.

ON DECEMBER 31, YIPU-YONG, SONG YU-PO, FORMER MAKEUP EDITOR OF TONGA ILBO AND CHONG CHONG-PONG, FORMER TEACHER WERE SENTENCED BY SEOUL DISTRICT COURT TO EIGHT YEARS PLUS EIGHT YEARS FOR YI PU-YONG AND FOUR BY FOUR FOR THE OTHER TWO FOR VIOLATING NATIONAL SECURITY LAW AND ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW. GOVERNMENT CHARGED THAT AS MEMBERS OF

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"BLUE FRIENDS CLUB," WHICH IS MADE UP OF GRADUATES OF SNU,

YI, SONG AND CHONG PLOTTED TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT.

4 CHUNGANG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

ARRESTED LAST JUNE ON CHARGES THAT THEY WERE PLANNING TO WRITE AND PUBLISH ANTI-GOVERNMENT ARTICLES, 3 CHUNGANG STUDENTS RECEIVED 1 YEAR PLUS 1 YEAR, ONE STUDENT GOT 10 MONTHS PLUS 10 MONTHS ON DECEMBER 26.

SNU GROUP

OF 25 SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BROUGHT TO FINAL TRIAL SESSION ON DECEMBER 26, ONE STUDENT WAS ACQUITTED WHILE 24 STUDENTS RECEIVED SENTENCES RANGING FROM FOUR YEARS IN PRISON PLUS FOUR YEARS LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS TO EIGHT MONTHS PLUS EIGHT MONTHS. EXECUTION OF SENTENCES FOR SIX STUDENTS, GENERALLY THOSE WITH TERMS OF ONE YEAR OR LESS, WAS SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS. THIS IS TANTAMOUNT TO PROBATION.

NCCC-K CLERGYMEN

SENTENCING OF THREE NCCC-K CLERGYMEN BY APPELLATE COURT WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY REF E. ON DECEMBER 24, REVS. CHO SUNG-KYOK AND KWON HO-KYONG WERE RELEASED FROM PRISON. REV. PAK HYANG-KYU WHOSE SENTENCE WAS INCREASED FROM ORIGINAL EIGHT MONTHS TO TEN MONTHS BY APPEALS COURT WAS NOT RELEASED. ACCORDING NCCC-K GENSEC KIM KWON-SOK RELEASE OF TWO CLERGYMEN FOR CHRISTMAS WAS OBTAINED THROUGH AGREEMENT THAT NO FURTHER APPEALS WOULD BE MADE BY NCCC-K. CHURCH LEADERS HAD HIGH HOPES THAT REV. PAK WOULD ALSO BE RELEASED AND HAD SCHEDULED BROWNING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CEREMONY FOR DEC. 27. REV. PAK HAD BEEN GRANTED EDWARD W. BROWNING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXPANSION OF CHRISTIAN GOSPEL ON OCT. 16 WHILE HE WAS IN PRISON. THIS AWARD WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW YORK TRUST CO., CARRIES STIPEND OF \$5,000 AND MEDAL OF BROWNING. AT HIS WIFE'S REQUEST, AWARD CEREMONY WAS CARRIED OUT ON OCT. 27 WITHOUT REV. PAK.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT POLITICAL TRIALS CONCLUDED DURING DECEMBER LARGELY COMPLETE CASES OF STUDENTS AND OTHERS WHO WERE ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES DURING SPRING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND EARLY SUMMER 1975.
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